

University of Montana
ScholarWorks at University of Montana

Syllabi

Course Syllabi

Fall 9-1-2005

LEG 186T.01: Introduction to Legal Research

Colleen M. Dowdall

University of Montana - Missoula

Let us know how access to this document benefits you.

Follow this and additional works at: <https://scholarworks.umt.edu/syllabi>

Recommended Citation

Dowdall, Colleen M., "LEG 186T.01: Introduction to Legal Research" (2005). *Syllabi*. 9983.
<https://scholarworks.umt.edu/syllabi/9983>

This Syllabus is brought to you for free and open access by the Course Syllabi at ScholarWorks at University of Montana. It has been accepted for inclusion in Syllabi by an authorized administrator of ScholarWorks at University of Montana. For more information, please contact scholarworks@mso.umt.edu.

**THE UNIVERSITY OF MONTANA–MISSOULA
COLLEGE OF TECHNOLOGY
BUSINESS TECHNOLOGY DEPARTMENT**

COURSE SYLLABUS

LEG 186T INTRODUCTION TO LEGAL RESEARCH

Autumn Semester 2005

FACULTY: Colleen M. Dowdall, Esq.
Office Number – 258-4779 Office Fax No. - 258-3797
Office email - cdowdall@co.missoula.mt.us
Home Number - 549-2095 Home Fax no. - 728-5249
Home email - cdow532@aol.com

PREREQUISITE: Enrollment in program or consent of program administrator

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Introduction to legal research techniques and citation with an application of legal research to writing.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

Upon completion of course, students will be able to:

1. Understand the role of the paralegal in Legal Research and Writing.
2. Use a variety of authority to understand and support a particular legal theory.
3. Develop analytical skills to access hard copy digests and on-line resources to research case law.
4. Analyze and synthesize cases, constitutional, and statutory research on a particular topic.
5. *Shepardize* cases for validation and research.
6. Utilize secondary authority to understand, analyze, and tie together primary authority and to find additional primary authority to support a legal issue.
7. Create legal memoranda according to IRAC or other appropriate formats.

GRADING AND POLICIES:

Grading Scale:	A - 93-100%	Weight of grading:	Homework assignments 15%
	B - 87-92%		Midterm Exam - 25%
	C - 80-86%		Case Brief - 25%
	D - 75-79%		Final Exam - 35%
	F - Below 75%		

Attendance Policy:	Attendance is not mandatory but will influence grading when the numerical average is on the borderline between grades.
Make-up Tests	Make up tests will be allowed if I have been notified prior to the test that you are unable to take the test due to illness or emergency. Notification may be by email, in person or phone message. Make-ups will be completed by the end of the week in which the test was scheduled.
Due Dates:	Homework assignments are due at the beginning of class on the due date and must be typed . A late assignment will have 7 points deducted from the score. Rough drafts are due to be turned in on the date indicated.
Disabilities:	If you need special assistance due to a disability contact me personally after class or by phone or email by the end of the 2 nd week of class.
REQUIRED TEXT:	<i>The Legal Research and Writing Handbook</i> by Andrea Yelin and Hope Viner Samborn <i>ALWD Citation Manual</i> by Darby Dickerson, Association of Legal Writing Directors

Plagiarism Warning

“Plagiarism is the representing of another’s work as one’s own. It is a particularly intolerable offense in the academic community and is strictly forbidden. Students who plagiarize may fail the course and may be remanded to Academic Court for possible suspension or expulsion.” The University of Montana, 1999-2000 Catalogue, Page i8. Also see Student Conduct Code.

You may work with other students on the library exercises and in researching the writing assignments. The actual writing on the written assignments must be your own. When working with other students, be sure to understand the resources and process used to get the answer.

You may work with other students on the library exercises and in researching the writing assignments. The actual writing on the written assignments must be your own. When working with other students, be sure to understand the resources and process used to get the answer. **IF I FIND IDENTICAL HOMEWORK FROM TWO OR MORE STUDENTS, NO CREDIT WILL BE GIVEN TO ANY OF THE STUDENTS WHOSE HOMEWORK IS IDENTICAL.**